

REMARKS

The Applicants wish to thank the Examiner for thoroughly reviewing and considering the pending application. The Office Action dated August 2, 2005 has been received and carefully reviewed. Claims 1, 12, and 25 have been amended. Claims 13-15 have been canceled. Accordingly, claims 1-12 and 16-38 are currently pending. Reexamination and reconsideration are respectfully requested.

Initially, the Applicants wish to thank Examiner Brinson for taking the time to discuss the pending application with the Applicants' representative on September 14, 2005. During the telephonic Examiner Interview, the amendments to claims 1, 12, and 25 illustrated above were discussed.

The Office Action objected to the amendment filed on May 17, 2005 under 35 U.S.C. § 132(a) because the amendment introduced new matter into the disclosure. More specifically, the Office Action indicated that claims 13-15 do not find support in the specification and/or drawings. As noted above, the Applicants have canceled these claims, thereby rendering the rejection moot.

In addition, the Office Action objected to the specification for the reasons noted therein. The Applicants note that these changes were made in the amendment filed on May 17, 2005. More specifically, the Applicants draw attention to paragraphs [0027] and [0045] of the substitute specification that was filed along with the amendment dated May 17, 2005. As shown therein, the objections noted in the Office Action were addressed in the previously filed amendment. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the objection be withdrawn.

In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 1-4, 6-9, 11, 25-28, 30-33, 35, 37, and 38 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over EP 1,201,981 to *Tamborini et al.* (hereinafter “*Tamborini*”) in view of U.S. Patent No. 4,852,564 to *Sheridan et al.* (hereinafter

“*Sheridan*”). In addition, the Office Action rejected claims 5 and 36 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tamborini* in view of *Sheridan* as applied to claims 1 and 25 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,507,319 to *Kanao* (hereinafter “the ‘319 patent”). The Office Action also rejected claims 10, 29, and 34 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Tamborini* in view of *Sheridan* as applied to claims 1 and 25 and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,311,753 to *Kanao* (hereinafter “*Kanao*”). Furthermore, the Office Action rejected claims 12, 17, 22 and 24 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanao* in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,335,945 to *Meyers* (hereinafter “*Meyers*”). Moreover, the Office Action rejected claims 17-19 and 21 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanao* in view of *Meyers* as applied to claim 12 and further in view of *Tamborini*. Additionally, the Office Action rejected claim 20 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanao* in view of *Meyers* as applied to claim 12 and in view of *Tamborini* and *Sheridan*. The Office Action also rejected claim 23 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kanao* in view of *Meyers* as applied to claim 12 and further in view of the ‘319 patent. The Applicants respectfully traverse these rejections. During the telephonic Examiner Interview, the Examiner agreed that the claim amendments noted above define subject matter patentable over the cited references. Accordingly, the Applicants request that the rejection be withdrawn.

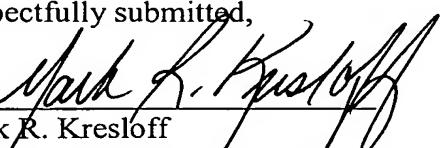
The application is in condition for allowance and favorable action is respectfully solicited. If for any reason the Examiner has any questions regarding this application, the Examiner may call the undersigned attorney at (202) 496-7500. All correspondence should continue to be sent to the below-listed address.

If these papers are not considered timely filed by the Patent and Trademark Office, then a petition is hereby made under 37 C.F.R. §1.136, and any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 for any necessary extension of time, or any other fees required to complete the

filing of this response, may be charged to Deposit Account No. 50-0911. Please credit any overpayment to deposit Account No. 50-0911. A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed.

Dated: November 2, 2005

Respectfully submitted,

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